

In such cases, CBO expects that the effect of the Secretary's actions—if he or she took advantage of the new authority—would primarily reflect the use of the “bully pulpit” to pressure drug manufacturers into reducing prices. Thus, CBO concluded that the overall impact on federal spending from negotiations targeted at selected drugs would be modest. Beyond that general conclusion, the precise effect of any specific proposal would depend importantly on its details.

If you would like further information on this subject, we would be happy to provide it. The CBO staff contact is Tom Bradley.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL,  
*Director.*

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, repealing the noninterference clause means a restricted formulary, which places limits on the drugs that are available to seniors, maybe excluding some drugs that your doctor wants to prescribe for you. I don't believe that Medicare beneficiaries want the government interfering in that process.

Then, as policymakers, we must keep in mind that we are making decisions that affect healthcare choices for the people whom we are elected to represent.

Let's all remember to first do no harm. Repealing the noninterference clause may sound good, but not even a spoonful of sugar will help that bad dose of policy medicine go down.

I come to the floor today to hope that I can put this issue to rest and, as we try to work in a bicameral and bipartisan way to reduce drug costs, that we don't get held up by people who want to do something different by having the government more involved, when it isn't going to save any money and will restrict formularies. It will get the government between you and your doctor.

In other words, I am trying to save Part D. It has been a great success. It is accepted by the people. Let's keep drug costs down without having this issue interfere with our process.

We need to preserve the foundation of private enterprise on which Part D is based—in other words, the marketplace working. We need to get to the real work of reducing prescription drug costs.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROMNEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### FLOODING IN OKLAHOMA

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, just to give the Senate body a quick update of what is happening in my State right now, we have had some pretty dramatic flooding and over 15 tornadoes in the last 48 hours across the State. Thankfully, most of those tornadoes hit in open areas. They did not hit structures. There have been some

structures that have been damaged, but the flooding has been far worse than the tornadoes and the high winds.

Just 2 nights ago, in one of our counties, Osage County, we had severe flash flooding, where from 10 p.m. to 2:30 in the morning, over 100 different homes had to be evacuated in the middle of the night. Many of those folks had law enforcement, firefighters, and first responders arriving at their home with a boat or with a truck to get them out, literally, in their pajamas so they could escape. Many of those homes have 4 to 6 feet of water in them now.

It has been intense for those folks who are in the area. In fact, it is interesting. The director of emergency management for that area spent the entire night saving homes and helping people get out. When dawn broke and they knew they had gotten everyone out, he headed back to his own house only to find out he could no longer get to his home anymore because of the floodwaters.

We have had folks all over the State, whether that be in Perry, where we had two homes that were destroyed in a tornado that night that, thankfully, did not hit the center of town. We had other spots, like around Eufaula, where we had some serious flooding; Stillwater, where there has been flooding. In Dale we had a very dangerous overnight tornado that came in, literally, while everyone was sleeping. There are pockets of folks who are there who have been affected by this, literally, all over the State.

For the department of transportation folks, for the folks in our police and fire departments, for the emergency management individuals—both for the State and the counties—for mayors and city managers, for hospitals, for county workers, for city staff, for the Corps of Engineers, and, quite frankly, for just neighbors down the street, it has been a long week. There have been a lot of folks serving each other to take care of those needs, and there will be for a while.

I thought this body would need a quick update because sometimes people feel a long way from the center of the country when you are in Washington, DC, but we need to understand what is happening in the center of the country right now—literally, the center of America. It is affecting all Americans.

#### TULSA RACE RIOT ANNIVERSARY

Mr. President, I did want to tell a story, though. It is a little bit of a different story. It is about 9,000 people in Tulsa who were suddenly left homeless. It wasn't this week, and it wasn't a natural disaster. It was actually on June 1, 1921, when the worst race riot/massacre happened in American history. That story is still one that this body needs to remember.

I brought this up a few years ago, and I thought it may be time to bring it up again. The reason is that we are quickly approaching the 100-year anniversary of a whole series of riots that happened around America in the summer of 1919.

As the soldiers were coming back home from World War I, many of whom were African-American soldiers who had served with great dignity and honor there, they returned back home with skills that they had picked up overseas and with a tenacious patriotism and work ethic. They returned back to America to go back to work, but they were greeted by a lot of White business owners and a lot of White workers in the country who said: You may have served overseas and fought the war, but you are not welcome to work here. And White neighbors started setting homes and cities on fire.

There were riots. There were protests. There was a national pushback that happened in the summer of 1919. Chicago and Washington, DC, were some of the worst. Oklahoma really survived it well.

Interestingly enough, in Oklahoma, we have 30 towns that were considered Black towns, scattered all across the State. The first folks who actually came to Oklahoma who were African American actually came with the five Tribes when they were relocated. They were brought by the five Tribes who had held them as slaves. When they moved from the southeastern part of the country, and they moved to Eastern Oklahoma and were relocated there in that tragic walk, they brought their slaves with them.

In the land rush after 1889 and then years later as we became a State, land started opening up and individuals and families who were African Americans moved from all over the country coming for new hope and opportunity. There were 30 different towns that sprung up all over Oklahoma that were predominantly African-American towns. One of those was Greenwood.

At that time, it was affectionately known as “Black Wall Street.” It was one of the most prosperous African-American communities in the entire country. It was right on the north end of Tulsa.

Although, when they left from Greenwood and came into Tulsa to work, to shop, or whatever it may be, they were limited. In Greenwood, there were shops, stores, movie theaters, lawyers, doctors, and all kinds of activities. Everything was there. But if they walked a few blocks from Greenwood into Tulsa, they found themselves not being welcomed.

In fact, in downtown Tulsa, there was only one place where a Black man could actually go to the bathroom—one. It was in that building that a gentleman named Dick Rowland took the elevator up to go to the bathroom. On the elevator, there was a White girl there named Sarah Page.

We have no idea what happened in that elevator, but when the elevator door opened, she screamed, and a crowd quickly grabbed Dick Rowland and pulled him off, accusing him of all kinds of things, and hauled him off to jail in downtown Tulsa, where, within a few hours, a lynch mob gathered around that jail.